

~~TOP SECRET~~

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Memorandum



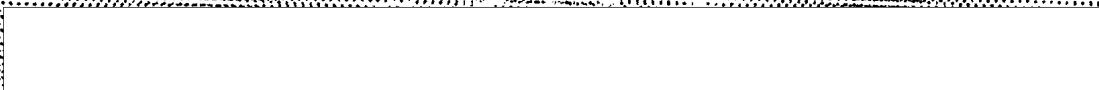
THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM

Information as of 0600
12 March 1965

PREPARED FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL



25X1



25X1
83

~~TOP SECRET~~

Page Denied

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
12 March 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The Situation in Vietnam as of 0600 EST

Communist Military Developments

25X1

2. No significant deployments of Chinese Communist, Vietnamese or Soviet military forces have been detected in the past 24 hours which could be directly related to the Vietnamese situation.

3. Recent analysis of photography of 18 February of the Phuc Yen airfield in North Vietnam reveals that 19 dummy aircraft are parked there along with 34 MIG-15/17 fighters. A regiment of 36 fighters first occupied Phuc Yen in August 1964 after the first Gulf of Tonkin incident. It now appears that there has been no additional deployment since that time.

25X1

4. The use of dummy aircraft recalls the question-
able character of missile-like objects [redacted]
[redacted] on 21 February. These objects did
not resemble any known Soviet missile.

25X1

25X1

25X1

6. Photography indicates that the number of anti-aircraft guns in North Vietnam has remained relatively static in recent months. The most recent count indicates a total of 203 sites, 195 of which are active. Of this number, 116 contain medium AAA weapons and 76 contain light weapons. The total number of guns noted is about 1,000 of all types. The only new guns noted during this period have been the six Soviet ZSU-57 self-propelled anti-aircraft units. No heavy AAA weapons--100 mm or larger--have yet been confirmed.

Communist Political Developments

7. According to Western press reports, Soviet Ambassador Vinogradov in Paris denounced US attacks on North Vietnam as "premeditated acts of aggression." Vinogradov, who is leaving his post soon, gave the impression of close Franco-Soviet collaboration in seeking ways to reach a negotiated settlement of the Vietnam crisis. However, he was reportedly evasive on the question of specific proposals, asserting that delegates to any new Geneva conference could hardly sit down "if bombings accompanied the meeting." His remarks have not been carried on Soviet press media so far.

8. Ambassador Kohler has shed further light on the DRV ambassador's 6 March claim over Moscow TV that many Russians had offered their services as volunteers to fight in Vietnam. Kohler comments that the ambassador's reference to volunteers was in the context of Vietnamese gratitude for the strong support of the Soviet people. Aside from one brief TASS item for foreign consumption, Kohler asserted that there has not been the "slightest hint" in the Soviet press concerning "volunteers" and he attaches no "special significance" to the DRV ambassador's remarks.

9. The USSR continues its efforts to contain the damage to Soviet-US relations as a result of the 4 March demonstration in Moscow against the US Embassy. The chief of the press section of the Soviet Foreign Ministry told a local US correspondent that the Chinese "deliberately organized" the assault with the aim of "fomenting a quarrel with the USSR." He claimed that the Chinese staged the issue of hospitalization, and that those students who were turned away had already been treated,

presumably by a Chinese embassy doctor. Ambassador Kohler also reported rumors circulating in Moscow University that Chinese students will be withdrawn if the Soviet government fails to apologize for its alleged brutality against the demonstrators.

10. A People's Daily editorial of 12 March accused the ICC of "serving US imperialism" and charged that the Commission's report to the co-chairmen of the Geneva Conference, which did not attempt to assess blame for the Vietnam crisis, reflected the stand of the Indian government. The editorial attempted to associate the ICC with Indian Prime Minister Shastri's proposals for a Geneva-type conference to settle the Vietnam problem.

Viet Cong Military Activity

11. The Viet Cong continue to be active throughout South Vietnam.

12. A number of outposts and hamlets in the northern provinces, in the central highlands, in the area east of Saigon, and in the delta have been attacked in the past few days. Several posts received harassing fire yesterday and on the preceding day 25 government militia were killed in an attack on a hamlet in Quang Ngai Province. A district town was attacked in Binh Dinh Province. The provincial capitals of Long Khanh and Hau Nghia provinces, east and west of Saigon, received mortar fire while nearby posts were simultaneously harassed.

25X1

Internal Political Developments in South Vietnam

14. No significant political developments have been reported during the past 24 hours.

25X1

[REDACTED]

15. No confirmed injuries have been reported as a result of firing in the air by government troops on 10 March to disperse a crowd of Buddhists in the Da Nang area who were trying to avenge the killing of a Buddhist soldier by a Catholic soldier. The murder evidently resulted from a private feud, and the initial reaction of ranking Buddhist monks in the general area was to try to prevent Buddhist agitation over the incident. Although the situation seems to have quieted, the incident is symptomatic of persistent, underlying Buddhist-Catholic hostility.

16. [REDACTED] three leading members of the pro-neutralist South Vietnamese People's Self-Determination Movement be deported to North Vietnam. The three men have been moved from Saigon to Hue apparently in preparation for deportation. Previously over 350 members of this "peace movement" had signed a manifesto calling for an immediate ceasefire and negotiations. If carried out, this deportation would mark the first time since 1954 that the government has sent anyone north.

25X1

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET